REIMEI NO HANA

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CHAPTER 3

CHAPTER NAME:
AN UNTAINTED WORLD

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"GREATER PALACE": HQ OF VARIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES IN KYOTO (HEIAN ERA)
THE HEAD PRIEST EXPECTS YOU TO HURRY.
THE REGENT ALSO--
I KNOW...
I DIDN'T LOSE
I WAS JUST TESTING THEIR STRENGTH
SO YOU BARGED INTO THE GREATER PALACE AND GOT BEATEN AT YOUR OWN GAME. IS THAT IT?
-AN UNTAINTED WORLD-
THE DAMN THING
HAS MY ARM TREMBLING.
!!
!!
WHAT'S WRONG?
...I SMELL A CURSE.
IT CAN'T BE!
FWOOSH
HOWL
HOWL
HOWL
I HAVE DECIDED

WHOOSH
WITHOUT FAIL

I WILL PROTECT HIM!
-AN UNTAINTED WORLD-
A FEW DAYS PRIOR - KYOTO, KAMO RESIDENCE
WELL THEN, EXCUSE ME.

MITSUHIDE-DONO?
SEIMEI!
AH!
SHOVE
HEY!
RUN
RUN
WAIT!!
A MOUSE
MITSUHIDE KILLED IT
THAT IS..?
ARE YOU DONE TALKING WITH FATHER?
YES
SORRY, MY SON WAS RUDE
WHAT A CRUEL WAY
TO TREAT A CHILD
HEY ONMYOUJI!
AA..
USE YOUR POWERS TO KILL THAT THING OVER THERE
DIDN'T THAT HAPPEN TO YOU TOO?
GETTING BULLIED INTO USING YOUR POWERS THAT WAY?
WHY WOULD HE DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
HE'S USUALLY SUCH A GENTLE CHILD..

AFTER ALL, WE'RE STILL NO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE BUDDHIST PRIESTS WHO PRACTICE BLACK MAGIC.
WE JUST GET MORE BACKING BECAUSE OF OUR BLOODLINE
--BUT I'M AN EXCEPTION, RIGHT?
NOW I CAN SEE HOW THEY PERCEIVE US ONMYOUJI
TO THINK PEOPLE KNOW THIS TYPE OF STUFF HAPPENS
YEAH, IT IS.
YOU'RE A PART OF OUR FAMILY
JEEZ YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO SAY THINGS LIKE THAT
IDIOT!
WHOOSH
HA
THANK YOU
...

POKE
-THIS SPIRITUAL PROTECTION IS SURPRISINGLY STRONG
AS ALWAYS, HE IS A TRUE NOBLE AMONG NOBLEMEN
SWOOSH
CRACKLE
I CAN'T USE SUKUNE FOR THIS
PEOPLE ALREADY KNOW HE'S MINE
(Ah)
TIME FOR A NEW
HOWL
HOWL
HOWL
DAWN IS NEAR
I MUST HURRY
SCREECH
MT KOUYA
TCH
AWAKEN-ING

*ALL-ENCOMPASSING BINDING MANTRA
BUT IS CHANTING A MANTRA USED BY SHINGON
BUDDHISTS FOR MAKING SPIRITUAL BARRIERS.
オン
サラサラ
バサラ
ハラキャラ
ウンハッタ*
SMACK
HN!
SUIKEI-DONO!
DON'T TOUCH ME.
IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIM,
I CANNOT BE TOUCHED.
STEP
STEP
SUIKEI-DONO, WHAT HAPPENED?
WAIT!
DO NOT APPROACH!
DASH!

THERE'S AN ERROR IN THE NOTES PORTION OF NEXT YEAR'S CALENDAR?
THIS IS A SERIOUS MISTAKE
CORRECTING IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT
SEIMEI!
IS SEIMEI HERE?
I NEED HIM TO REVIEW THIS CALENDAR IMMEDIATELY
CHATTER
AND I CAME ALL THIS WAY TOO..
!!
WHERE'S SEIMEI?
WELL ...
...
HE DIDN'T COME TO WORK TODAY.
?
THE HECK?
WHAT?
YOUR INUGAMI USER ISN'T HERE?

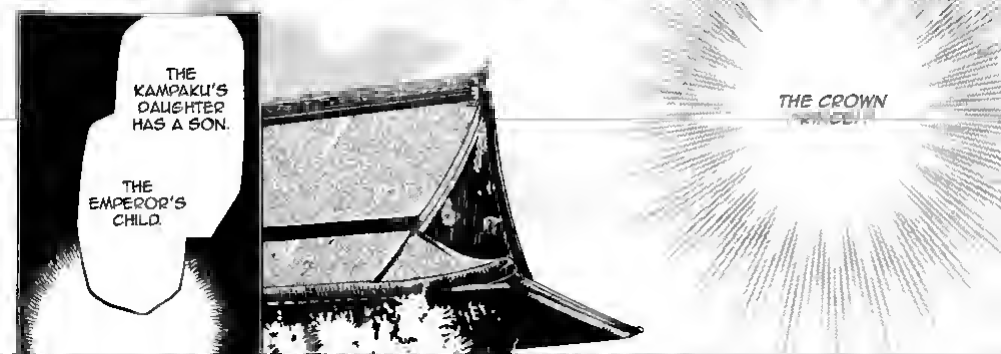
YO!
THANKS FOR THE OTHER DAY.
You government dudes are sure up bright and early, huh?
YOU'RE...
ASHIYA DOUMAN!?
RUSTLE
I HAVE BUSINESS WITH THAT DEMON ONMYOUJI.
BUT, ALTHOUGH IT SOUNDS FUN AND ALL...
TODAY
WON'T END LIKE IT DID LAST TIME.
SO- IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE TELLING ME WHERE HE IS, I'LL JUST FOLLOWING HIS STENCH.
THAT ANIMAL STINK OF HIS SETS MY HAIR ON END.
DAMN STRAIGHT IT WOULDN'T.

CHATTER
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO CATCH HIM IN THE ACT THAT WAY
ARE YOU ALL HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME!?
LOOKS LIKE HOUSE KAMO'S HEIR...
I SEE.
IS LEFT OUT OF THE LOOP?
IT MAKES SENSE AFTER ALL
THIS UNPLEASANT ATMOSPHERE
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHAT?
GOD FORBID
YOUNG MASTER KAMO-CHAN
SHOULD HAVE TO CROSS
SUCH A DANGEROUS BRIDGE.
FUJIWARA KANEMICHI-DONO SAID AS MUCH.

* IN HEIAN JAPAN, THE KAMPAKU IS CHIEF ADVISOR TO AN EMPEROR, WHO MAKES POLICY BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE EMPEROR. THE SESSHIN (REGENT) OF A YOUNG EMPEROR USUALLY BECOMES KAMPAKU WHEN THE EMPEROR REACHES MAJORITY
LOOKS LIKE HE CHASED OFF THAT SUSPICIOUS PRIEST WHO USES THE SECRET BUDDHIST ARTS
I HEAR HE USED AN INUGAMI TO DO IT
HOW FRIGHTEN-ING...
THAT'S FINE
THE KAMPAKU?*
SUCH A PERSON
WILL SURELY BE USEFUL TO US
QUENCH!
YOU MEAN...
EH?
A CURSE
GASP

YOU WON'T HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS IF I TAKE CARE OF HIM, RIGHT?
JUST ATTEMPTING A CURSE IS A SERIOUS CRIME.
DREADFUL, ISN'T IT?
BUT THE JOB OF AN UNDERLING IS TO DO THE DIRTY WORK, RIGHT?
WELL, BEING FUJIWARA'S DOGS, IT CAN'T BE HELPED
!?
BULLS-EYE

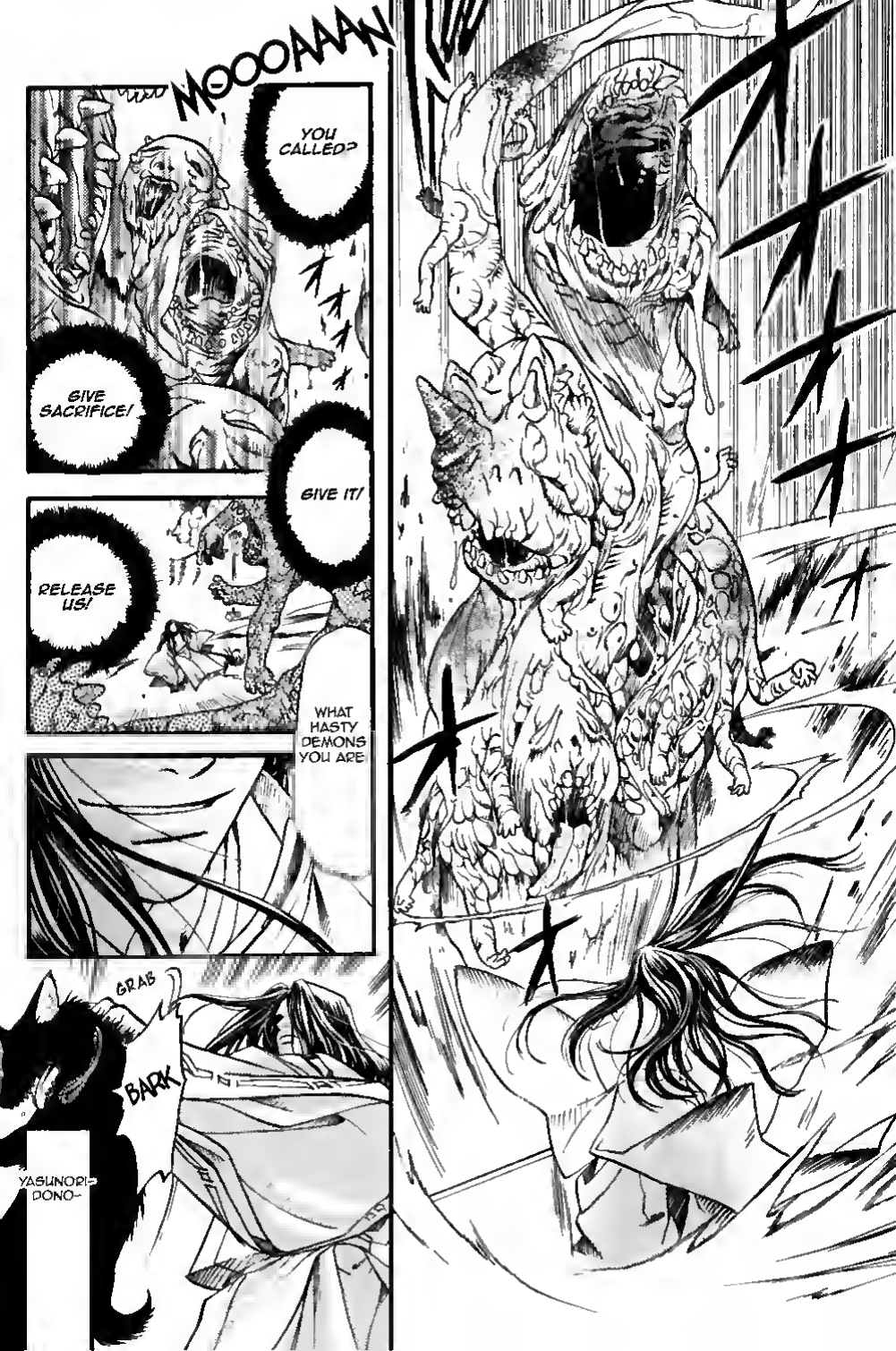
IF SOMEONE WANTS TO MESS WITH THE CROWN PRINCE,
I CAN'T JUST QUIETLY LET THAT GO


THE KAMPAKU'S DAUGHTER HAS A SON.
THE EMPEROR'S CHILD.
THE CROWN

THE KAMPAKU HAS KINDLY GIVEN US ONMYOUJI HIS PATRONAGE
MORE SO THAN THE EMPEROR HAS
UNDER-STAND?
I CAN'T REFUSE, CAN I?
YES
WHOOSH
IN OTHER WORDS, THE CURRENT CROWN PRINCE IS IN THE WAY
QUIET!
RUSTLE
FOR THIS REASON
I UNDER-STAND.
IF WE SHOULD GO AGAINST THE EMPEROR,
AND BY CHANCE THE ACTIONS OF THE ONMYOUJI ACADEMY WERE DISCOVERED
THEN WHAT SORT OF PUNISHMENT WOULD THE SUBSTITUTE HEAD, YASUNORI, RECEIVE?
TAP
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN ALL THE BACK-STABBING IS OVER
ABOVE ALL...
I HAVE NO TIES TO THIS WORLD.
SO THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT BECAUSE...

SEIMEI
MITSUHIDE WAS CRYING
HE WAS CRYING OVER THE MOUSE HE KILLED
HE IS STILL APOLOGIZING.
EVEN SO, I STILL SCOLDED HIM.
THAT EVER-SERIOUS YASUNORI-DONO
SHOULD NOT TAKE THE CURSE ONTO HIMSELF
WHOOSH
WHAT'S WRONG IS WRONG
HE MUST NOT FORGET WHAT HE'S DONE
WE MUST BEHAVE WITH HONOR
WE CAN'T JUST PRACTICE BLACK MAGIC AT THE CONVENIENCE OF NOBLEMEN FOREVER
WE MUSTN'T DEMEAN OURSELVES
ONE SHOULDN'T BECOME DESENSITIZED TO SUCH CORRUPTED ACTIONS

-AN UNTAINTED WORLD-
THE ONMYOUJI ACADEMY MUST CUT TIES WITH SUSPICIOUS MAGIC
WE MUST CREATE A NEW FORM OF STUDY
ONMYOUJI MUST RAISE OURSELVES TO A HIGHER STANDARD
HOWL
オーン
HOWL
オーン
SEIMEI
I WILL END THIS ERA
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ALL OF THAT, YASUNORI-DONO.
HOW MANY DECADES IT WILL TAKE, I DON'T KNOW.
BUT WE HAVE A LONG JOURNEY AHEAD OF US.
YOU'RE GOING TO HELP.
CIRCLE


MOOOAAAN
YOU CALLED?
GIVE SACRIFICE!
GIVE IT!
RELEASE US!
WHAT HASTY DEMONS YOU ARE
GRAB
BARK
YASUNORI-DONO-

EVEN NOW, WE'RE STILL TOO WEAK
THAT DAY, I DECIDED
I WOULD PROTECT YOU NO MATTER WHAT!
THEREFORE
WE CAN'T OPPOSE HOUSE FUJIWARA.
WE'RE STILL JUST POLITICAL DOGS WHO MUST STAIN OUR HANDS TO REMAIN STANDING
PLEASE GO AHEAD AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE...
SO, I WILL TAKE CARE OF THE DARKNESS
YOU WILL BRING FORTH THE NEW FUTURE- I BELIEVE IN YOU
BARK
CLANG

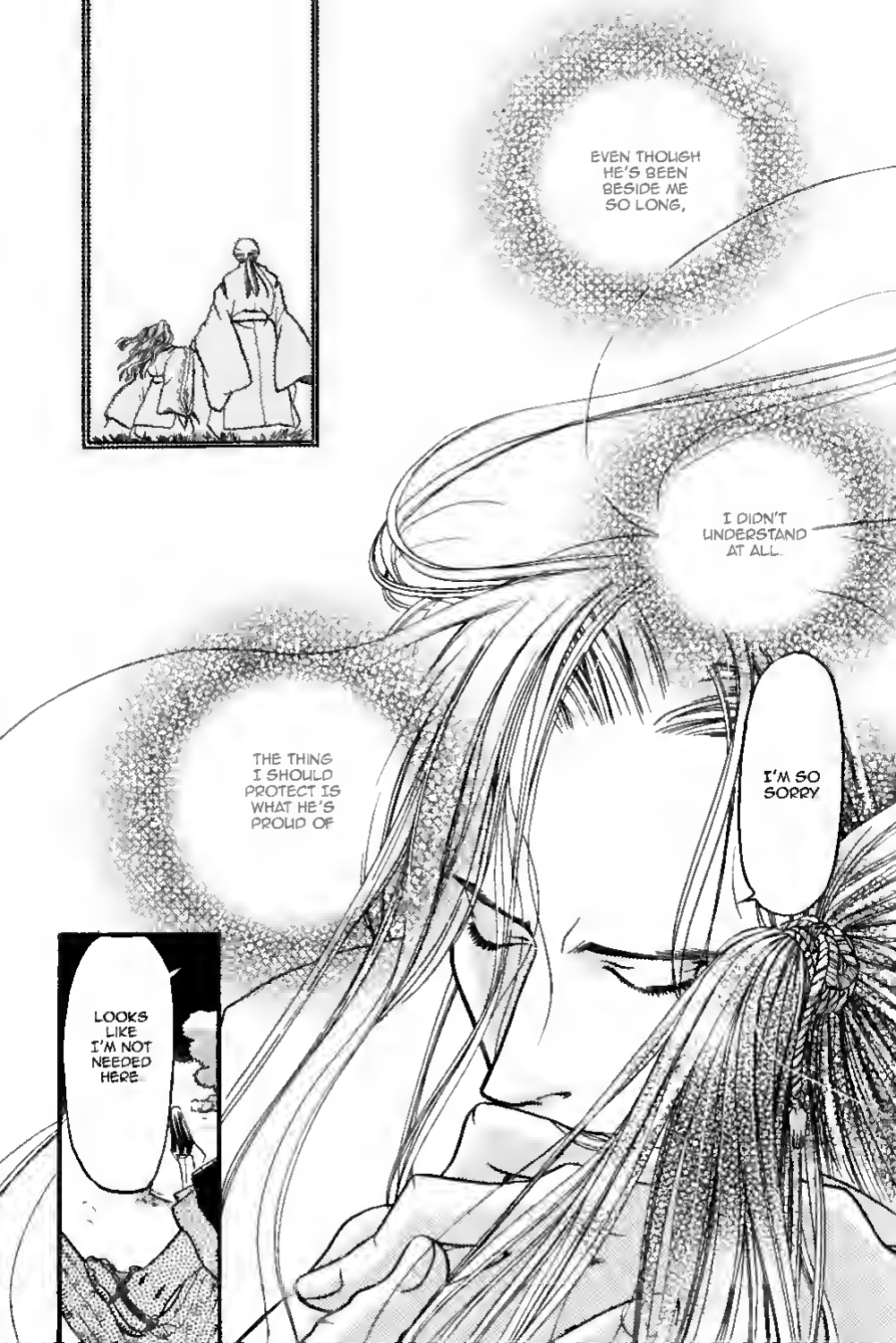
BARK
THUMP
FWISH
A GHOST FROM THE UNDER-WORLD, HUH?
YASUNORI-DONO!?
CLINK
MOAN
オオオオ
BOOSTOO
THAT IS THE TRUE HEART OF THOSE WHO PERFORM CURSES

-AN UNTAINTED WORLD-
FILTHY SPIRITS OF THE UNDER-WORLD
YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS HERE
MOAN
RETURN!
SWING
GIVE US SACRIFICE
OF BLOOD AND FLESH
MOAN
BOOM
YASUNORI-DONO!!
SEIMEI, LOOK CAREFULLY
RIP
RIP
OOH
OOH
CRUSH!

*HEAVEN AND EARTH PURIFICATION SPELL. SPELL USED TO PURIFY A PLACE ENCLOSED BY CERTAIN KINDS OF AMULETS AND TALISMANS

-AN UNTAINTED WORLD-
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY LIKE THAT
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SLAP YOU?
YASUNORI-DONO
THIS WHOLE SITUATION MAKES ME SICK
SLAP
BUT...
DON'T ACCEPT THEIR EXCUSES
ABOUT FUTURE CALAMITIES AND STUFF!
OR IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT, AT LEAST TELL ME!!
AREN'T WE LIKE BROTHERS?
...I SAY THAT, BUT

MAKING THE NEW ERA WHERE PEOPLE WON'T DO SUCH THINGS-
THAT'S FOR YOU TOO.
COME WITH ME TO THE PLACE WHERE THE SUN SHINES. WHERE NO ONE NEED FEEL ASHAMED
WHY CAN'T YOU BELIEVE IN ME?
WON'T YOU COME WITH ME?
BE PROUD BESIDE ME.
CLENCH
I WON'T ACCEPT ANY OTHER ANSWER.
AHH..


EVEN THOUGH HE'S BEEN BESIDE ME SO LONG,
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL.
I'M SO SORRY
THE THING I SHOULD PROTECT IS WHAT HE'S PROUD OF
LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT NEEDED HERE.

RUSTLE
NASTY WIND
OH WELL, CAN'T COMPLETE MY MISSION NOW ANYWAYS
I'M GETTING SOFT
JEEZ
RUB RUB
SHIT
THAT HEIR OF THEIRS SURE HAS GUTS
HOUSE KAMO MAY HAVE FALLEN BUT THEY STILL GOT BALLS
SHIKEI-DONO, ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?
YES, IT'S OVER NOW
THE CROWN PRINCE IS SAFE
TAP
THE POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE EMPEROR AND THE KAMPAKU IS SUCH A GIANT HASSLE
BUT I TOO
HAVE SOMEONE I WANT TO PROTECT

[AN UNTAINTED WORLD – END]